

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: February 16, 2005

Division: District 1

Bulk Item: Yes ☐ No ☐

Department: Mayor Dixie M. Spehar

Staff Contact Person: Ranny Fitzgerald

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Proclamation to declare March, 2005 as Seagrass Awareness Month.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

The seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world and has helped create and sustain the world class fishing in the Florida Keys and support hundreds of species of fish at various stages of development.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST: _____

BUDGETED: Yes ☐ No ☐

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes ☐ No ☐ **AMOUNT PER MONTH** _____ **Year** _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty _____ OMB/Purchasing _____ Risk Management _____

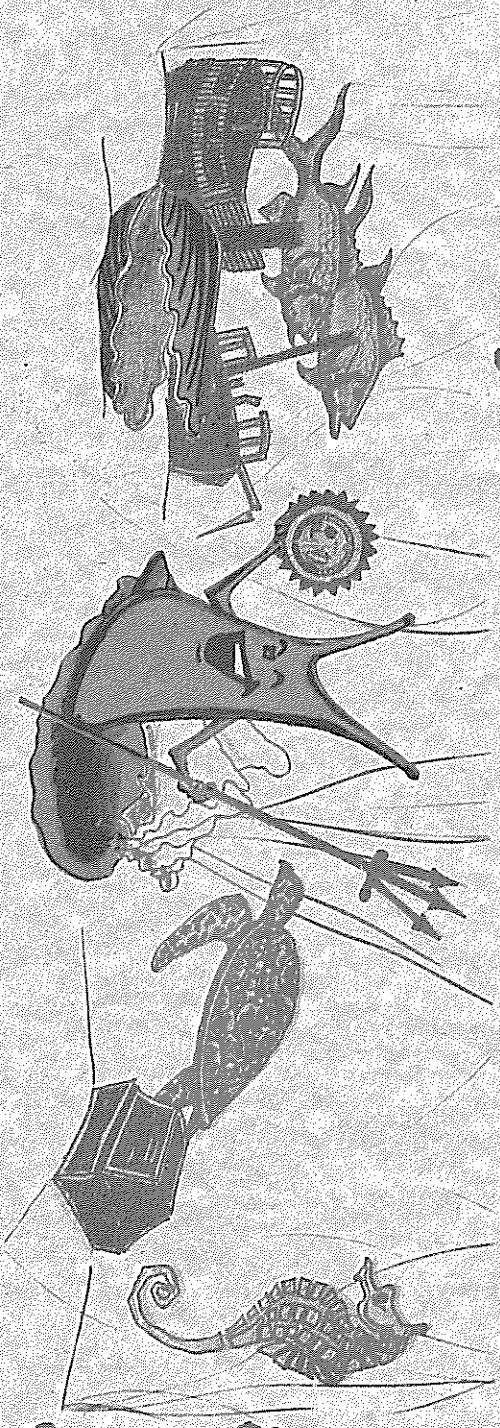
DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:


(TYPE NAME HERE)

DOCUMENTATION: Included ☐ Not Required ☐

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____



Mayor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world and has helped create and sustain the world class fishing in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, many commercial fishery species rely on seagrass habitat during some part of their life cycles including pink shrimp, lobster, red fish, and stone crab; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 alone, seagrass communities in Monroe County, Florida supported an estimated harvest of roughly \$28.5 million for five commercial species of fish and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, while there are 1.5 million acres of seagrass in Monroe County, Florida, over 30,000 acres in South Florida have propeller scars; and

WHEREAS, seagrass stabilizes bottom sediments and helps to absorb the excess nutrients from land run-off, which can further damage the quality of our waters; and

WHEREAS, the seagrass community supports hundreds of species of fish at various stages of their development; and

WHEREAS, awareness of the problems facing this vital natural resource will help to create an understanding of the ways seagrass damage can impact both the economic and ecological value of our marine resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of Monroe County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim March, 2005 as

SEAGRASS AWARENESS MONTH

WITNESS my hand and seal of the County of Monroe, Florida, this 16th day of February, 2005.



Dixie M. Speha
Mayor Dixie M. Speha